

Karen Mouritsen
State Director
Bureau of Land Management
Eastern States Office
20 M Street SE, Suite 950
Washington, D.C. 20003

July 29, 2017

Re: Protest of the September 21, 2017 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale, Wayne National Forest

Dear Director Mouritsen:

I hereby file this Protest of the Bureau of Land Management's ("BLM") planned September 2017 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale and the programmatic Final Environmental Assessment for oil and gas leasing in the Wayne National Forest, Marietta Unit of the Athens Ranger District, Monroe County, Ohio- 6 Parcels covering 191.71 acres available for lease.

ES-001

Parcel Info
View on Map Monroe County, OH
T4N, R5W, Ohio River Survey
Sec. 7: SENE

Acres: 39.68 Opening bid: \$2/acre Open for bidding:
09/21/17 7:00 AM CDT

ES-002

Parcel Info
View on Map Monroe County, OH
T2N, R4W, Ohio River Survey
Sec. 15: NENE, W2SENE, Part SWNE

Acres: 97.72 Opening bid: \$2/acre Open for bidding:
09/21/17 7:02 AM CDT

ES-003

Parcel Info
View on Map Monroe County, OH
T2N, R4W, Ohio River Survey
Sec. 15: Part NESE

Acres: 4.16

PROTEST

I. Protesting Party: Contact Information and Interests

This Protest is filed on behalf of
Cynthia D. Ellis
3114 Steel Ridge Road
Red House, WV 25168

My interest in the lease sale is that I recreate [birding, botanizing] in the Wayne National Forest.

II. Statement of Reasons as to Why the Proposed Lease Sale Is Unlawful:

BLM's proposed decision to lease the parcels listed above is substantively and procedurally flawed for the reasons discussed below:

Fracking will present damaging impacts to the forest ecosystem. Fracking will substantially increase the fragmentation of an already non-contiguous landscape and lead to loss of plant and animal life.

The forest character---the reason for my use of, and appreciation for the Wayne National Forest---will be greatly degraded. My birding, hiking, and botanizing friends and I will have much reduced reason to visit the Wayne.

Please see this recent study from West Virginia University on the impacts of shale gas drilling to Appalachian forest birds. <https://www.infona.pl/resource/bwmeta1.element.elsevier-8e6c5d58-b2d7-31b2-8979-b6f36251d384>

Thank you for adding these concerns regarding ecotourism and the status of birds in the Wayne forest to the myriad specific and general concerns raised by others regarding the protection of this Ohio treasure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cynthia D. Ellis".

Cynthia D. Ellis
3114 Steel Ridge Road
Red House, WV
25168